Table of Contents

1. prologue
2. chapter 1: Outside
3. chapter 2: the only two
4. chapter 3: Paws
5. chapter 4: new apprentice
6. chapter 5: gathering
7. chapter 6: grey paws
8. chapter 7: what does it mean?

prologue

"Jayfeather! leafpool! come quick, sunflowers kits are coming!" hearing the yowl, the blind medicine cat shot up from his nest. leafpool was already up rummaging around the herd store to see what she could find that could help deliver the helpless scraps.

"we don't have much of any thing..." the she cat mumbled as she picked up her bundle of watermint and pelted out of the den in to the bitter cold. jayfeather rushed after her as they made there way to the nursery.

squeezing in, he located sunflower in the farthest part of the nursery, also the warmest. she was gasping for air as a wave of pain rolled across her flank. jayfeather put his paws on her flank, ready to help her.

"Daisy! get sunflower some water and a sturdy stick to bite on." he called to the oldest nursery queen. She nodded and went to look for requested items.

"Ok, on the next wave ill need you to push, the first one is coming." Leafpool said to the tabby she cat.

jayfeather crouched by the tabbies hunches as the first kitten flopped on the floor. He quickly opened the transparent sack, allowing the newborn to take in its first breath.

"Hello there little one." Whispered jayfeather as he laid the mewling kit at its mother's belly.

Leafpool came over with an other kit in her jaws placing it beside its littermate. Then a gasp escaped from sunflower

"there's an other one!" Jayfeather mewled, going over to the she cats hunches once again, ready to grab the next kitten.

"Now breath and push Sunflower, this one needs to come out now

before you get to weak."

He heard a gasp and a groan from the tabby and then a small kit landed at his paws. Swiftly, he opened the sack so it could breath. Placing it next to its other two siblings. Jayfeather felt a worth role over him as he pressed his nose gently to the kits pelts. When he got to the third of the litter, the darkness he saw gave way to a beautiful ,bright, orange eyes. as he listened, the breeze carried with it the sound of meows, most of them the meows he hoped to never hear again, but nun that he could make out. In a flash jayfeather was thrown back into his familiar darkness.

Taking a paw step back he shook his head, his vision had come and gone so fast he could say that he never had it but he new to never second guess his visions.

"There beautiful" jayfeather jumped when leafpool came over and whispered in his ear.

"The first one has dawn gray fur with lighter gray paws and tail tip, the second is a tabby color like ,his mother, with an oak dark thorn pattern on his back and light brown belly fur..." leafpool trailed of at the last kit.

"Well? What's the last one looked like?" The blind medicine cat mumbled annoyed by her silence.

"Shes... she's a beautiful ray of Orange, one of the brightest I've seen..." she said but he had stopped listening when she described the kit.

Shaking his head he checked to see that all the kittens where breathing clearly and that Sunflower was asleep, he backed out of the den turning his face to the twilight Dark sky.

"What game are you playing at, what are you not telling me..."

The reply did not come from his warrior ancestors but from the shadows as a stiff, bitter breeze swept over the fallen snow, "A game you won't win..."

chapter 1: Outside

'Wait... watch...and NOW' shooting out of the nursery entrance, she landed clumsily on her littermates stubby tail.

"Ha! I've got you again!" The little kitten said fluffing out her pelt from the cold morning air.

Squeaking, the tabby kit swirled around on his hunches to glares at his sister,"that's not fair Orangekit! Your always finding me!"

Orangekit gave a little *mrrrw of laughter,"*it's not my fault your tail is as long as a branch, Oakkit."

Good humored, Oakkit dropped Into a hunters crouch, and started to prowl forward. As he wiggled his hunches to leap a gray bundle rammed into his side, knocking Oakkit right of his paws.

Orangekit rolled onto her back in a fite of laughter as her sister, Crytalkit, pinned there brother to the ground with her light gray paws.

Glaring up at his sister, Oakkit shoved her off," get off you great lump!" He huffed, as he sat up and shacked the frost off his brown pelt. "Ok I give up! Hey! Let's go see Snowdawns kits!" Oakkit squeaked, and raced off into the nursery with his two littermates scampering behind him.

Once in the nursery Orangekit and her littlermates made their way to Snowdawns nest. There mother, Sunflower, raised her head.

"Dont go disturbing Snowdawn, now you hear." Even though her meow was stern, it held a gentle calmness in it.

"Yes mother." Orangekit squeaked, sunflower was such a caring mother, she wouldn't have asked for any other cat.

While Orangekit was speaking to sunflower, Oakkit and Crystalkit had crept up to Snowdawns nest. Next to them two other fluffy kits

where peering over the edge of the nest. One of the two kits turned around and laid his beautiful amber eyes on Orangekit. He beckoned the Orange kit with his stripped tail. Excitement bubbled underneath her fur, as Orangekit looked over the moss. In the nest lay a snow white she-cat with beautiful dark blue eyes, at her belly lay two small kittens, the first one was a white she cat with three jet black rain drops underneath both eyes and black leopard print at the base of her tail. the other was a gray Tom with soot paws, tail tip and ears.

Amazed Orangekit watched as the little white she-cat lifted her head, and opened her mouth in a enormous yawn. Orangekit leaned over the nest, just barely a whisker away from the white kitten when she opened her eyes revealing beautiful frosty blue eyes. Orangekit gasped in amazement.

" snowdawn look! She opened her eyes!" Maplekit squeaked, he was one of the two kits who where leaning over the nest with her littermates.
Be quite before you wake the other kit! Nope, to late. Orangekit swung her head around to glare at him but Maplekits brother, Amberkit, cupped him lightly over his ear.
Huh! Serves you right!

Orangekit turned her dark ginger head back to Snowdawns kits to see the little Tom was whimpering and pawing at the ground. when he opened his eyes, the he looked straight up at Orangekit.

"Hello, I'm Orangekit, welcome to Thunderclan kit! These are my littermates and friends!" She waved her fluffy tail at the four other kits, who purred in reply.

The Tom squeaked and batted at his sister's stubby tail, who growled in response to his actions.

"All ready starting trouble I see?" Oakkit purred then side glanced at his fluffy gray sister.

" like someone I know..." crystalkit saw the look her brother gave her and tackled him into a play fight, rolling past Daisy who was dozing in her nest by Sunflower.

Daisy raised her head," hey you noisy kits, go play ourside! You five are louder then a Hurd of bangers!"

Daisys one of the oldest nursery queens. The old barn cat had come to live with Thunderclan to protect her kits from being taken away from her by two legs. Daisy preferred to stay in the nursery, helping raise kits and giving advice if needed. Orangekit also thought of her as her as an other mother

cause she has always been there for her and her littermates.

Orangekit stalked past her nest, taking on last look over her shoulder at the knew additions to the clan. Snowdawn was curled up around the too kits as their eyelids slowly fell.

In the most protected walls of the nursery, lying in a nest of moss and feathers, lay the clans future warriors

Orangekit closed her eyes as the thoughts rang in her ears, then turned and padded into the frost kissed camp.

chapter 2: the only two

Orangekit was lying in front of the nursery with her paws tucked neatly under her chest with her eyes narrowed while glancing at frosty camp. Her brother and sister where sitting next to her, grooming the bits of moss and bracken from their fluffy pelts. Orangekits, Crystalkit, and Oakkits mother had her face turn turned towards two apprentices who where practicing a battle move. As Orangekit turned her head to gaze around the clearing she noticed how the warriors den had little pink buds growing on then. She then realized the warm breeze that drifted into the hallow. New-leaf wasn't far behind.

Orangekit directed her attention back to the battle move the two apprentices where practicing. The dark brown she-cat leaped at her brother, the tabby Tom reared on his hunches to paw at her but the dark drown she cat flung a white paw out and cupped him right over the ear before diving under him and pushing up with her shoulders to unbalance him. Though the Tom was bigger then she was, he still lost his footing and rolled onto his back. His sister then took the advantage and pinned him down one white paw on his throat while the other was on his belly. Orangekit observed how if the dark drown apprentice didn't have her claws shealthed, her brother would have been no more.

Sunflower then rose and shook her pelt, then turned to the three kits at her paws.

"Come now my dears, I would like for you to meat your half brother and sister." She said with a purr though Orange kitten noted the uneasiness in her eyes.

The kits all looked uneasy but nodded reluctantly. They got up and padded towards the two apprentices who had been training just a few moments ago. They both got up and looked at sunflower and the kits.

"Yes? Can we help you?" The she cat said impatiently.

Orangekit noticed Oakkit roll his eyes and glare at the she cat. But she didn't pay much attention to him, she was thinking about how strange the dark brown she cat was being and how tabby Tom was glaring at her and Orangekits mother.

Sunflower took no notice to the rudeness of the apprentices mew, but pushed her kits forward with her tail so that they where directly in front of the two apprentices.

"These three are your half brother and sisters, the little gray with light gray socks is Crystalkit." Sunflower meowed as she pressed her nose to the top of Crystalkits head.

"The Orange kit is Orangekit, and the Tom with dark brown thorn markings is Oakkit." She said pressing her muzzle to all of there heads in turn. "Kits, the she-cat with the white socks and dark brown pelt is brittlepaw, and the tabby Tom with the white belly fur and tail tip is snakepaw."

When sunflower introduced them Orangekit saw Brittlepaw and snakepaw give them ugly looks from narrowed eyes. *Who put dung in there freshkill?* The sun colored kit flattened her ears and felt her shoulder fur lift when she felt the blazing eyes of two apprentices boring Into her back as sunflower lead then back to the nursery. Then she heard Brittlepaw whisper in a snarl, "how useless, acting like they are all that" then snakepaw scoffed, "our mother wouldn't of been so quick to get rid of us like father."

Some how Orangekit had a feeling that her half brother and sister didn't like her or her littermates. *What have we done to make them dislike us?* Orangekit closed her eyes and drifted into an uneasy sleep where she was taunted by two voices, and only two.

chapter 3: Paws

"I brackenstar, leader of thunderclan, call upon my warrior ancestors, to look down on these kits, you all have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you all to be apprenticed." Brackenstar jumped down from the Hugh ledge and stood in from of the kits.

"From this day on, till you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Orangepaw. Your mentor will be berrytail. I hope berrytail will pass down all she knows on to you." The creamy she cat with a red tail padded up and touched noses with the orange apprentice before walking to the side of the clearing. Oakkit was named oakpaw as well as crystalpaw, maplepaw, amberpaw, frostpaw, and sootpaw. All of the apprentices had decided to wait a moon so that snowdawns kits could be apprentices with them.

Oakpaws mentor was blossomfall. Crystalpaws mentor was dovewing. Maplepaw was apprenticed to sorrelfeathers, amberpaw was with fernwhisker, and frostpaw was apprenticed to snowfall and sootpaw to dewleaf. As the new mentors and apprentices made their was out of camp orangepaw couldn't help but think, *this is it, this is the start of our new beginning!*

~·~·~·~·~·~·~~·~·~·~·~·~·~~·~·~·~·~·~·~·~·~·~~·~·~·~·~·~~·

After a long day of trekking around the territory, the new apprentices all walking worn out to there new nest in the apprentices den. When Orangepaw sniffed around for a clean set of moss to sleep in, she flopped down in her nest and sighed with relief. There was a rustling and then Orangepaw felt a soft pelt near hers, when she opened one eye she noticed that frostpaw was lying in the nest nest to hers already fast asleep. The Orange eyed she cat smiled and drifted into a dreamless sleep.

When she woke up the next morning, she felt smothered. When orangepaw lifted her sun colored head she looked at the furry things lying near her and realized they where her den mates.

Oakpaw, crystalpaw, frostpaw, sootpaw, amberpaw, and even maplepaw where all surrounding her in a peaceful sleep. How's nice, "**wake up you lazy kits!!**" Yelled Blossomfall through the Bush. And in a heartbeat all the apprentices where scrambling around in there nest, stepping on one an others tails.

"Windclans attacking!"

"Ouch, get off my tail you flee brain!"

"Mouse dung!"

"Get your rump out of my face!"

"I'm coming! Hold on-"

Orangepaw and the others where all stuck in the entrance to the den. Scrambling and trying to get out of one an others fur, literally.

"Hold on guys ill get you out of there!" It was maplepaw, he was the only one not stuck in brandles. Surprisingly since he's the most clumsy one.

Then, with a hard shove, they all rolled and tumbled into the clearing. Orangepaw looked and saw all of their mentors chuckling and grinning in amusement. She quickening stood up and tried to groom down her shoulders fur in embarrassment. It was her first day of being an apprentice and she was already making a fool of herself. Sighing, berrytail gathered the large group together and took off out of the camp. Orangepaw huffed while trying to keep up. The wind whipped past her snout. The branches rattled above there's heads in a dance so charming it could put a monster to sleep. Orangepaw embraced the warm air that slipped past her whiskers, warming the air as they dashed by. Orangepaw noticed all the rustling in the undergrowth, *preys finally coming back,* she thought with relief.

As they turned around a corner, they ended up in a clearing covered in moss. "This is the training hollow, I want every one to find a partner and stand in front of them, come one quickly we don't have all day!" Berrytail meowed in a commanding voice.

Orangepaw looked around at the other apprentices as they shyly asked one an other to be partners. *Oh no what happens when you can't find a partner?!* She turned in a circle looking as they all stood facing each other, then frostpaw padded up to the orange apprentice.

"Do you need a partner, you looked kind of lost for a moment." The white she cat stated in an amused, but kind, voice.

"Oh thank starclan, I mean yes! I need a partner, hehe thanks frostpaw!" Orangepaw scampered across the clearing then turned to face the white apprentice.

"Ok, now let's begin with your hunters crouch..."

~time skip back to the camp!~

Orangepaw lagged at the back of the group, the soreness in her limbs weighing her down. The Orange cat held her head low, looking at the green grass as she padded on towards the direction of the camp, she hadn't noticed the brandle thicket that had suddenly appeared in front of her.

The apprentice walked straight into it, only to notice she was stuck when she tried taking an other step. *Huh, wait! What in star clans name!*

"H-hey Berrytail, wait up! Pls, I'm stuck!" She yelped into the night. But there was no reply

"Berrytail...?" She meowed again, a little louder, but still no one came to her rescue.

Fine, ill help my self out then, with a grunt orangepaw tugged her self free from the branches of the bush.

When she did, the orange apprentice rolled backwards in a bundle of paws and tail. Orangepaw then collided into something.

"Oof!" The Orange she cat grunted as she came to a stop.

"Sorry! I didn't mean to run into you, I got stuck-" she stopped

grooming her pelt, and took a sniff at the air. This cat didn't smell like Thunderclan!

Orangepaw leaped backwards and crouched down with her teeth bared. She then got a good look at the stranger. It was a kit, just about 6 moons, it was a russet color completed with white paws, tail tip, and ear tips, with a little white part above the nose. The kit also had piercing yellow eyes. Orangepaw then started to stalk around the kit, taking in her ruffled, and messy fur, *where's your mother? You wouldn't have come alone now would you?*

*"*Who are you and what are you doing on Thunderclan territory?" Orangepaw questioned.

"My name if Fox."

chapter 4: new apprentice

Orangepaw stared at the russet she cat in aw. It was no wonder this cat was named after one of the clans most feared predators. The kit looked just like one, from her yellow piercing eyes to her white tail tip.

"My name is Orangepaw, I'm an apprentice of Thunderclan training to be a warrior!" The sunny she cat said, raising her head proudly.

Fox stared at her as if she had grown to heads. Orangepaw blinked and sighed.

"Come now, ill have to take you to the camp, then Brackenstar can figure out what to do to you." At that, Orangepaw took off in the direction of the camp.

The scrawny kit was, surprisingly keeping up. As they neared the thorn barrier, they found Berrytail pacing at the entrance when they arived.

"Orangepaw! Thank goodness, where were you? Great starclan you look like you trecked to the mountains and back!" She said disapprovingly.

Then she saw Fox, the creamy warrior lowered her head to her apprentices and hissed into her ear while still keeping her eyes on Fox. "Why have you brought a rogue kit into the heart of Thunderclan territory?"

Orangepaw gulped and hung her head," well, when i got separated from the group I wasn't watching where i was going and ran into a bush, when I got my self out I rammed into her. She tells me she was running away from something. Her names Fox."

All the while, Berrytail was slowly nodding. Then with a huff she made her shoulder fur lay back down. Orangepaw didn't notice it was up in the first place.

"Come on then, well just have to see what brackenstar says, right now we can't do much." She turned around and padded back into the entrance of the camp. Orangepaw let Fox go first before following in her self. When they made it to the clearing brackenstar was already on the high ledge, all her clanmates where already assembled. They all turned when she padded in after fox.

Brackenstar looked surprised that Orangepaw had really brought a rogue into there camp. But he quickly changed his expression and beckoned her and Fox over with a flick of his thin tail.

"I have been informed that you have brought, Fox is it? Into the heart of our territory." The Orange apprentice gulped and nodded. He his gaze to the russet kit standing next to orangepaw. He looked like he was thinking.

"Hmm, it appears to me that this kit has come here for help. I'd like to speak to you Fox, come in my den, birdsong meet us in the den please." Brackenstar turned and walked back into his den, birdsong, Thunderclans medicine cat, and Fox following behind.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~time skip

Orangepaw was sitting by the apprentices den, poking at her vole, when brackenstar called the clan meeting once again. Standing under the ledge was Fox and birdsong.

"I have listened to the kits story, and with careful consideration from birdsong, I would like to welcome, Fox as Thunderclans newest apprentice!"
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

chapter 5: gathering

Orangepaw sniffed the air, looking for any sign of prey. A rustling in the ferns by a near by tree caught her eye. The Orange apprentice dropped down into a hunters crouch, slowly getting closer to her target. A pigeon was wrestling with a earth worm that was half barred in the ground. With a huge leap, Orangepaw jumped into the air, landing straight on top of the bird. She snapped its neck and let it drop to her paws, satisfied.

"Hey there flying cat."

Orangepaw jumped and turned around to glare at the russet she cat.

"You scared me out of my fur, Foxpaw!" Orangepaw said embarrassed.

Foxpaw only rolled her eyes and tilted her red head. "Great catch, when where you so good at leaping like that?"

Orangepaw shrugged and picked up her pigeon," come on let's head back to the others" she mumbled around a mouth full of feathers.

Once the two apprentices found there mentors they started the trek back to the camp. Foxpaw was carrying two mice, they swayed in her jaws as she padded through trailing ferns and brandles. Two moons ago, when foxpaw had first joined the clan, mostly no one accepted her until she snapped at any cat who told her she'd never make a true warrior. The russet apprentice was assigned Hailstorm as her mentor.

The hunting patrol padded through the thorn barrier, and walked to the fresh kill pile to deposit their prey.

"Well done you two, get some rest, tonight's the gathering, and I believe you two will be going." Berrytail winked before picking a mouse from the pile and walking across the clearing to sit next to

hailstorm, dewleaf and snowfall.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

"Every cat going to the gathering come it is time to leave!" Brackenstar summoned all the warriors, elders and apprentices who where going to the gathering.

"Those who are going are, Snowdawn, molewhisker, blossomfall, ivypool, hailstorm, dewleaf, snowfall, lilyheart, sorrelfeather, hollyblossom, turtleshell, icestorm, orangepaw, foxpaw, sootpaw, maplepaw and frostpaw." After naming all his cats, brackenstar leaped away into the twilight dark forest.

Bitter wind, whipped past the fast moving cats, flattening there whiskers to there face. The moon touched cats moved swiftly by the waves that lapped at the shore.

The tree bridge came into veiw, it's dead branches being tugged by the silver water. orangepaw and frostpaw climbed on top first clinging to the rotten wood, as to not fall into the swirling depths of the silvery lake. Orangepaw sighed with relief as her Orange paws touched solid earth once again.

"Come on, let's explore!" Maplepaw shot towards the bushes that encircled the gathering. *Ugh leave it to that mouse brain* Orangepaw rolled her eyes but couldn't help but purr at his excitement. The other apprentices followed the white, red, and brown apprentice into the bushes.

When they emerged into the open they all gasped in amazement. The clearing was huge! And right at the far end of the clearing was a enormous pine tree that seemed to touch the closest star. It had great big roots that curved and molded into the ground.

Maplepaw had scrambled towards the great pine tree, looking up into its branches. When the other apprentices padded up his fur was on end and his eyes where wide opened.

"Maplepaw, what's wrong!?" He flicked his ears towards a branch a few tails lengths above his head.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

In the nettles of the pine tree, two yellow eyes stared thoughtfully down on the five apprentices. Orangepaw heard sootpaw hiss and unshield his claws. She throw him a *don't you dare say anything you mouse brai*n kind of look. Sootpaw then shielded his claws but kept his beautiful pale yellow eyes on the cat.

The strange cat moved from the shadows and out into the moon light. It was a she cat, she was a black tabby with white paws and only one ear tip that was white.

"Who are you?" Frostpaw asked stepping forward to gaze at the big warrior.

The black tabby looked down and grinned at frostpaw.

"I'm widowstar, leader of shadowclan."

They all went stiff, then maplepaw bowed his head with respect and orangepaw and every one else bowed there heads aswell.

"Glad too see Thunderclan apprentices know there place." And whith that widowstar looked away from the apprentices, and gazed with narrowed eyes at the bushes across the clearing.

Orangepaw padded away from the pine tree, frostpaw, maplepaw, sootpaw, and foxpaw following behind. Maplepaw snorted,"is Shadowclan cats always fleabrained?"

The Thunderclan apprentices sat down in a circle, maplepaw on the right side of orangepaw, sootpaw on the other leaving foxpaw, and frostpaw to sit in front of the Orange apprentice.

While they meowed on, orangepaw was busy looking around the clearing, noticing for the first time the Shadowclan, river clan, and Windclan cats. *They must of all come when we where exploring* Orangepaw thought.

Underneath the branches where widowstar was perched were the medicine cats. Birdsong was sitting next to an old looking ginger Tom that had red stripes on his face and tail. A smaller, much younger cat sat next to him, she was white with green eyes. *Those must be the Windclan medicine cats, gingermud and clearpaw.*

Sitting next to them was hollowstone from river clan, and wrenfeather of shadowclan. There was a small black she cat sitting next to her, staring at orangepaw and her group of misfits with wide green eyes.

Orangepaw shivered and turned back to her group. Some how, orangepaw knew that the black cat with green eyes was important.

~~~~~~~

Wrenfeather, and deathpaw belong to omenofthestars!!!!!

There will be more of deathpaw in the next few chapters, I really loved deathpaw so I just had to add her in my story! Thank you for letting me add her! Go check her out she's really cool and super nice! She has really good stories as well!

[What do you think of this chapter? Comment pls, and tell me what you like about it!]
~~~~~~~

chapter 6: grey paws

Orangepaw listened to the clan leaders talk about prey and new apprentices, in till she got tired of holding her neck up to gaze at the four leaders. Hawkstar of Windclan, was bickering about other cats his patrols have spelled at the borders. That is untill widowstar of Shadowclan hissed in disgust, creekstar of riverclan replied with a, *we have to patrol our borders too mouse brain,* and brackenstar of Thunderclan snorted in agreement while flattening his fluffy ear tips.

Sometimes I think those four are worst then us! Orangepa*w* laughed to her self. some of the other clan cats where snickering at there leaders childishness.

While the sun ray cat adverted her eyes away from the annoyed leaders, she let her orange gaze drift Across the clearing to the black medicine cat apprentice with green eyes. It was funny, because the black she cat kept glancing in sootpaws direction, occasionally her eyes would widded and grow dark before she would shake her head and look at the leaders.

Strange, isn't she? But there's something about her... orangepaw heard the leaders dismiss the gathering while every cat shared tongues, orangepaw scampered over to the green eyed apprentice.

"Uh, hello. I'm Orangepaw of Thunderclan, I've seen you looking at sootpaw over there." She said angling her ears towards the grey tom.

"Hi, I'm deathpaw. Sorry I just saw... something that's all..." she said slightly shocked. Orangepaw tilted her head curiously

"What'd you see?"

"Nothing, it was just a shadow that's all." She said sadly as she glanced back at sootpaw before she looked back to the sun printed cat in front of her.

"I have to go, but before I leave... orangepaw, I know I just met you but, listen" she paused and looked around to make sure no cat was looking then lowered her head, her green eyes darkening once again.

"Beware of the shadows that haunt grey paws." Deathpaw then turned and ran towards her clan. She then glanced back at orangepaw guilty before being swallowed up by the dense undergrowth.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Short chapter, sorry bout that! Hope you like it! What's gonna happen to dear sootpaw?

Deathpaw belongs to omenofthestars !!!
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

chapter 7: what does it mean?

Orangepaw was ecstatic the next day. When she dreamed after the gathering, she dreamed of herself weeping over a dead body, blood pooling at his head, some cat screamed but it was cut of by a sob.

Orangepaw then woke up, breathing heavily as if she had ran to the lake and back. The Orange apprentice took a deep breath of air, shaking the moss from her pelt. She nosed her way out of the den, blinking her eyes so they adjusted to the light.
Berrytail looked up from the thrush she was sharing with dewleaf before taking one last bite and padded towards her.

"Come, it's time for some battle training." The creamy warrior ran out of camp, Orangepaw followed right behind.

When they reached the training hollow they found oakpaw and crystalpaw already practicing the battle move. Orangepaw waved her tail at them in greeting before walking to the other side of the clearing.

"Now this move with help you when you are ever corner, and your taking on two warriors. Keep in mind that you won't be able to defeat them but you'll get away, if your lucky." Berrytail crouched down then jumped and landed squarely on a dandelion, clawing it in half before turning and kicking the air. Dropping down and snarling showing her sharp white teeth.

"Now I would like for you to try it." Orangepaws mentor sat down in the shade of a fern. The orange apprentice gulped before aiming her sun piercing gaze on the dandelion.

She crouched down, then jumped, just as her mentor had done, landing on the weed and slicing the remains of the dandelion. When she tried to turn and kick, Orangepaw tipped over and landed on her side, with an *oof*.

"Get up, try it again, but this time try sticking your paw out and

grabbing the grass, so it helps you move more smoothly and gives you a grip." Berrytail advices from the shadows. The sun was dappled lightly across her fur, making the creamy warrior blend into the background.

Orangepaw tried it again, this time hooking her paw out when she turned. She looked up and at her mentor, pleased to see the glint of pride warm in her mentors eyes.

"Well done, I would like for you to hunt for the elders. Crystalpaw and oakpaw may go with you." Berrytail flicked her red tail in the direction of orangepaws littermates who where racing towards her.

"I'm gonna catch a squirrel!" Oakpaw meowed determiningly.

"Ya ya, go ahead fleabrain, I'd like to see you run fast enough to catch one!" Crystalpaw purred before raising of in a fit of laughter as oakpaw charged after her.

"Wait up!" Orangepaw meowed.

Warm rays of sunlight flickered through the leaves from above. A few birds chirped and whistled into the light of the setting sun. Orangepaw sniffed around the roots a old oak, following the scent trail of a fresh mouse.
The mouse sat nibbling on a sunflower seed underneath the shadow of a swaying fern. Orangepaw dropped into a hunters crouch, just as she was about to land the killing blow. It looked straight at her. The apprentice froze, holding her breath. It felt like time seemed to slow, it was just Orangepaw and the mouse. She dashed towards it, dirt flying behind her as her paws propelled her forward in desperation to catch the furry creature.
Crashing through the bracken, tail streaming behind her, orangepaw jumped over fallen branches, the mouse only inches in front of her nose, it made a sharp turn to the left and vanished, with a spray of leaves under a n oak root.
Orangepaw, dug her claws into the soil to stop her self from crashing into the roots that sprawled out of the group.
Orangepaw huffed with angry, glaring down into the leaves were the stupid creature had vanished.
Flicking her ears up, orangepaw listened to the birds chirping and

the breeze ruffling the fern.
She padded on with her nose in the air, as silently as she could, orangepaw, crouched down at the scent of a vole. Excitement bubbled up in her fur once again. *I'm not going to let it get away that easily again!*
Following the Trail, she located the creature digging under decaying leaves.
Swiftly but quietly, she slide her paws on the forest floor, keeping her tail still. When orangepaw was close enough she jumped, landing squarely on the voles back, nipping it behind the head, killing it instantly.
Finally satisfied, orangepaw collected her prey and headed out to find her siblings.
As she grow nearer to the camp entrance, the air seemed to turn hotter. Out of know were a wail corrupted from the bushes ahead. A shiver ran down the orange apprentices back. Sprinting, she dashed around the brandle only to come face to face with crackling orange flames.

Fur on end, forgetting the prey, orangepaw looked around for anything to burn out the flames. A blurry grey figure dashed Out in front of orangepaw, pushing her back with a nudge of his shoulder. She couldn't help but notice, sootpaws quick, graceful movements as he kicked dirt to calm the hungry forest fire.
Dewleaf joined in and the flames died down to a soft sunset orange, until song bird came with moss soaked in water to burn the flames out.
Sootpaw padded over, smelling of burnt leafs and grass, "hey, you alright?" He leaned in and nudged his smaller friend. She didn't answer, just simply blinked in awe.
Over the moons he had grown taller and stronger since he and orangepaw were kits. Merely balls of fur rolling under the Warriors paws as they padded on by.
Orangepaw was still sick about the flames. She stood starring at the ashes of the burnt twig. She turned, and looked at sootpaws paws, at that moment, orangepaw new what deathpaw was Whispering about the other night.
Sootpaws paws had turned completely grey with ash.